You say that all the development departments of the State require to be strengthened. No one is more aware of that than the Government themselves. But it may not be possible to do everything at once. You may rest assured that Government will not forget this important aspect of public life. The condition of a Government is a reflection of the economic condition of the people. Unless we have a rich people, we cannot have a rich Government. I do not intend to deal specifically with each of your suggestions; but I may say, all your valuable suggestions will receive the earnest consideration of Government.

In regard to the Leather Expert, you said that his services have not been properly utilised by Government. Your information on that point is not quite up-to-date. This year, Government have resolved to ask the Leather Expert to supply a large proportion of the leather required by the Stationery Department. I am saying this merely to show that Government are not unaware of the position you point out.

With regard to committees and the appointment of members of the committees, from my experience during the last eight months I can fully endorse your statement that you do not go about trying to get nominated. You have not seen me at all in private after I became the Dewan. It seems to me however rather uncharitable on your part to say that the members of the Legislative Council who are on committees and other nominated members of such committees are people who go about asking for those places. I may tell you that Government always try to get, as members of a committee, people who will be helpful in the matter of the work that the committee is entrusted with. There may be several people who are well qualified for the work. But you will be the first to admit that all of them cannot be nominated to the committees, as committees are limited bodies.

Then you referred to what I said in my address about banks. I have said that there is a complaint in respect of banks, that our agriculture and industries are not adequately helped by them. For one thing, there is this cry about land mortgage banks. That is a complaint that agriculturists are not getting sufficient help from banks. I was not finding fault with the banks or saying that they are not doing their work properly. I was merely stating the fact that there are complaints and that the Banking Enquiry Committee will enquire into this question. You seem to have misunderstood my statement. I trust that what I have said will make the position clear.

Once more, I may say, that your valuable suggestions will be carefully considered.

34. Need for affording facilities for the development of commerce and industries in the State.

MR. P. M. ABRAHAM (*Municipal Council, Mavelikara*) first referred to the economic depression of the people of the State. Agriculture was the mainstay of the people of Travancore. Owing to the fall in the prices of indigenous products and the poor yield of lands, the average income of an agriculturist had been very much lowered. The

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population was increasing by rapid bounds but the foodstuffs produced were inadequate to meet local demands. Consequently people were dependent on foreigners for their daily wants. This state of affairs should be remedied and the economic condition of the people should be improved. The following suggestions were made by the member with a view to achieve this object:—

(1) The area under paddy should be increased in order that the import of that commodity might be reduced. Scientific cultivation should be popularised so that the yield might be increased. Swampy areas within reserved areas and backwaters, excluding portions required for waterways, should be made available for registry. The extent of lands already disafforested was not adequate.

(2) Greater attention should be paid to the improvement of irrigational facilities in the State. Although there was a proposal to appoint an Irrigation Engineer, it had not materialised.

(3) Production of articles which could be produced in Travancore, should be encouraged. Tobacco could be cultivated in Travancore; but owing to the embargo placed on its cultivation, a large amount was being annually drained away.

(4) There was no proper inducement for the cultivation of tapioca because there was no proper market for it. The article could be easily produced in large quantities, provided there was a proper market. There was ample scope for exporting the article, if it could be dried and preserved by factory processes. The Agricultural and the Industries Department should co-operate in the matter and find out ways and means for developing the industry.

(5) The prices of rubber, pepper, copra and coir were going down. The fall was not due to over-production but due to want of scientific knowledge among the people to find out proper markets at the proper time. The defect could be remedied if trade agents were appointed at New York, in Canada and other places. The agents could see to the export and import of articles in the most advantageous way.

(6) The ports of Travancore, *viz.*, Alleppey, Quilon, Trivandrum and Colachel, should be improved by executing the necessary works. The development of the ports would add to the trade facilities in the State.

(7) A Central Bank with branches in all important places should be opened by the Government with a view to afford help to the general public in their business transactions. The rate of interest in the bank should be lower than that levied in any other bank in the State. The State-Aided Bank was not serving the needs of the general public and hence his suggestion. The member hoped that the Banking Enquiry Committee would go into the question.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Abraham, you have more or less correctly catalogued some of the advantages derived by us and also enumerated some hardships suffered by commercial men. One of the most important among them is the fall in the price of indigenous

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products. That is a fact. Nobody can dispute it. But I doubt whether your theories as to the causation of this phenomenon or the remedies that you suggest for its removal could be universally accepted without demur. You say that it is *ipso facto* a disadvantage that any portion of the food materials of a country should have to be imported. As a general proposition, nobody can easily grant that. No country in the world can or does live in this century in absolute isolation from other countries. Every country will have to depend on other countries for something or other. Articles produced by one country will have to be given in exchange for other products.

You said something about disafforestation of lands for cultivation. I have explained the policy of Government in that matter in reply to a member yesterday and I have nothing to add.

With regard to minor irrigation, Government are appointing a committee according to the wishes of the people for investigating the ways and means of improvement.

Then with regard to tapioca, that is a very difficult problem just now. As a matter of fact, the price is so low that it is not at all profitable to the cultivator. I am at one with you in suggesting that it would be an advantage to have factories which would turn raw tapioca into a form in which it can be preserved for a long time. If leaders like you will come forward with practical schemes for working out that idea, I may assure you that Government will help you.

Your suggestion about the appointment of Trade Agents is noted.

35. Encouragement of the industrial development of the Parur taluk by Government grants.

MR. T. K. VASU MENON (*Municipal Council, Parur*) said that Parur was industrially one of the most backward taluks in the State. Cocoanut, sugar-cane, weaving and tile and earthenware industries could easily be developed in that taluk. The chief reasons why those industries had not been developed was the lack of technical education and want of capital among the people. Little or no education on industrial matters was imparted in schools.

With the growth of population and the steady increase in the number of educationally qualified men, the evil of unemployment was becoming greater and greater. The extent of arable land being limited, the occupation of farming could not keep many employed. The only way of solving the problem of unemployment was the development of industries. The first step in that direction was the opening of technical schools to impart instruction in weaving, coir-mat making and other cottage industries. Another step was the starting of industrial concerns by the Government. Sugar-cane industry could profitably be started in the Parur taluk. In the year 1104, the quantity of sugar-cane produced was sufficient to keep about 100 local mills engaged for about 3 or 4 months. But the people could not find markets for the molasses manufactured. The poor ryots could not start such concerns for want of capital while the rich were reluctant. The people could therefore fall back on Government alone They should therefore start

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